

REMARKS

No claims have been amended or added. Claim 7 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, and 10-11 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, and 11 is greatly appreciated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over *Hida et al.* (US 5,936,695). Claim 7 has been canceled.

Conclusion

It is submitted that the independent and dependent claims include other significant and substantial recitations which are not disclosed in the cited references. Thus, the claims are also patentable for additional reasons. However, for economy the additional grounds for patentability are not set forth here.

The Examiner's consideration of the references of record is appreciated. It is presumed that the Examiner has considered the entire disclosure of each of the references of record with respect to anticipation (individually) and obviousness (in any combination).

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

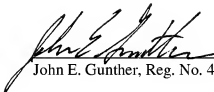
The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned registered practitioner to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

References to "Applicant" herein are to the assignee of record, which the undersigned represents. An assignment has been recorded, and a Statement of Ownership and a General Power of Attorney have also been filed. Thus, the rights of the original Applicants/inventors have been excluded.

With respect to this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 503456. Please consider this paper to be a petition for extension of time, if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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